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ABSTRACT

During the 1974 fall orientation, a questionnaire was administered to approximately 65 percent of the entering freshmen class at the University of South Carolina (USC). A total of 364 other institutions of higher education, including 44 universities, also participated in this continuing national study of higher education. This document presents a comparative analysis of various demographic data, opinions, and projections of the entering freshmen at USC. USC entering freshmen were compared as a whole to the national norms; they were also compared by the colleges in which they were enrolled. Sex differences were reported where they appeared to be important. Eleven areas of interest were selected for this analysis from the original 52 areas contained in the questionnaire. The eleven areas selected to provide a composite profile of the entering freshmen were: (1) age; (2) racial background; (3) average grade in high school; (4) highest degree planned anywhere; (5) reasons noted as important for selecting the college; (6) estimated parental income; (7) probable major field of study; (8) current religious preference; (9) political orientation; (10) "students estimate chances are very good that they will"; (11) residence planning during fall term. Results showed that the U.S.C. entering freshmen as compared with others, generally achieved lower in high school; academic reputation of U.S.C. was of less importance in selecting school; were more likely to be Black less confident academically; more likely to be Protestant; and more likely to live at home than in a college dormitory. (Author/KE)

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SUBJECT: Profile of U.S.C. Entering Freshmen, Fall, 1974

RESEARCH NOTES NO. 26-75 October, 1975

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HE 006 971

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Research Notes
No. 26

October, 1975

Subject: U.S.C. Freshman Profile - Fall, 1974 .

Nature and Scope of the Study:

During the 1974 fall orientation, a questionnaire prepared by the American Council on Education (ACE) was administered to approximately 65% of the entering freshman class at the University of South Carolina (USC). A total of 364 other institutions of higher education, including 44 universities, also participated in this continuing national study of higher education sponsored by ACE's Cooperative Institutional Research Program.

The following study presents a comparative analysis of the various demographic data, opinions, and projections of the entering freshman at USC. USC entering freshmen were compared as a whole to the national norms; they were also compared by the college in which they were enrolled[1]. Sex differences were reported where they appeared to be important.

[1]Comparative data were classified into eight college categories. The following is a list of the categories, with a description of the colleges which were grouped in each category, and the number of students in each sample.

CATEGORY	COLLEGES WITHIN CATEGORY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
1. Business Administration	Business Administration	278
2. Science and Math	Science and Math	269
3. Education	Education	133
4. Journalism	Journalism	101
5. General Studies	General Studies	147
6. Allied Health Sciences	Nursing, Pharmacy, Health and P. E.	93, 56, 42
7. Humanities and Social Science	Social and Behavioral Science, Arts and Letters	204, 246
	Undecided	48
8. Engineering	Engineering	97

Eleven areas of interest were selected for this analysis from the original 52 areas contained in the questionnaire[2]. These eleven areas were selected to provide a composite profile of the entering freshman at USC during the Fall, 1974 term. Each of these areas is presented in tabular form and followed by comments to highlight the major comparisons.

[2]The eleven areas of interest which were considered are

1. Age by December 31, 1974
2. Racial background
3. Average grade in high school
4. Highest degree planned anywhere
5. Reasons noted as very important in selecting this college
6. Estimated parental income
7. Probable major field of study
8. Current religious preference
9. Political orientation
10. "Students estimate chances are very good that they will"
11. Residence planned during fall term

Table 1

A COMPARISON OF AGE FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

Age by December 31, 1974	Bus Adm	Sci & Math	Educ	Jour	Gen St.	Allied Health Scienc	Soc & Behav Sci	Engin	Total USC Students	Natl Norms
16 or younger	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
17	5.9	8.7	6.5	7.1	5.4	4.8	10.0	4.3	7.4	4.2
18	72.7	77.9	76.6	77.6	76.0	77.8	73.6	75.5	75.4	79.2
19	19.2	11.8	14.5	13.3	14.7	15.3	13.6	18.1	14.8	14.2
20-25	1.1	1.6	0.8	2.0	1.6	1.0	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.0
26 or older	0.7	0.0	0.8	0.0	2.3	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.6	2.0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Comments:

1. The percentages of USC entering freshmen by age level were generally the same as the national norms, although USC students were somewhat more dispersed over the total range of ages than were students nationally.

2. USC entering freshmen were more likely to describe their age as less than 18 when compared to the national norms.

3. A slightly smaller percentage of USC entering freshmen (75.4%) described their age as "18" when compared to the national norm of 79.2%.

4. There was a tendency for a higher percentage of younger students (less than 18) to enter the College of Humanities and Social Science. There was a higher percentage of older students (19 and over) entering the Colleges of Business Administration and Engineering.

Table 1-A

A COMPARISON OF AGE FOR USC FRESHMEN BY SEX AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

Age by December 31, 1974	USC Freshmen			National Norms		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
16 or younger	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
17	4.2	10.9	7.4	3.2	5.4	4.2
18	74.6	76.2	75.4	77.7	80.8	79.2
19	18.1	11.3	14.8	16.1	12.0	14.2
20 - 25	2.5	0.9	1.6	2.5	1.3	2.0
26 or older	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3

Comments:

It is interesting to note that males were more likely to be older than 18 and females were more likely to be younger than 18. This trend was in the same direction as the national norms but more pronounced in the case of U.S.C. entering freshmen.

Table 2

A COMPARISON OF RACIAL BACKGROUND FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

RACIAL BACKGROUND	BUS ADMIN	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENG	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
White/Caucasian	91.6	93.9	96.0	95.9	86.7	94.1	94.7	91.7	93.4	94.3
Black/Negro/Afro-American	8.1	5.7	4.0	4.1	12.5	6.4	5.5	7.6	6.5	3.4
American Indian	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.7
Oriental	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.1
Mexican-American/Chicano	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5
Puerto Rican-American	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Other	0.0	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.1	0.5	1.1

Comments:

1. Approximately 93% of the U.S.C. entering freshmen described themselves as "White/Caucasian" compared to the national norm of 94.3%.

2. U.S.C. entering freshmen, as may be expected of a southern state university, are more likely to describe themselves as Black than is common nationally. Both the percentages of freshmen describing themselves as Caucasian and American Indian are comparable to the national norms. Other minorities are less attracted to U.S.C. than is typical nationally.

3. U.S.C. colleges enrolling a higher proportion of "Black" students than the U.S.C. average of 6.5% included General Studies (12.5%), Business Administration (8.1%), and Engineering (7.6%).

TABLE 3

A COMPARISON OF AVERAGE GRADE IN HIGH SCHOOL FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

AVERAGE GRADE IN HIGH SCHOOL	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
A	14.1	23.8	22.0	23.4	8.5	20.1	20.1	13.3	18.7	31.0
B	62.5	60.5	70.0	62.2	59.8	65.7	62.2	77.2	63.3	58.2
C	23.0	15.7	8.1	14.3	31.8	14.3	17.7	14.4	17.9	11.0
D	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.1	.2

Comments:

1. U.S.C. entering freshmen reported an average grade in high school of "A" considerably less frequently than the national norm (U.S.C., 18.7%; national norm, 31.0%).

2. Entering freshmen at U.S.C. were also more likely to report an average grade of "C" in high school than were their national counterparts (U.S.C., 17.9%; national norm, 11.0%).

3. U.S.C. colleges enrolling the highest proportion of entering freshmen reporting that they had received an average grade of "A" in high school included Science and Math (23.8%), Journalism (23.4%), and Education (22.0%).

4. The College of General Studies enrolled the highest proportion of U.S.C. entering freshmen reporting an average grade of "C" in high school.

Table 3-A

A COMPARISON OF AVERAGE GRADE IN HIGH SCHOOL FOR USC FRESHMEN BY SEX AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

	USC FRESHMEN			NATIONAL NORMS		
AVERAGE GRADE IN HIGH SCHOOL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	12.1	25.9	18.7	26.8	35.6	31.0
B	63.8	62.8	63.3	58.5	57.4	58.2
C	24.0	11.3	17.9	14.5	7.0	11.0
D	.1	.0	.1	.2	.1	.2

Comments:

1. It is noteworthy that U.S.C. females were twice as likely (females, 25.9%; males, 12.1%) as U.S.C. males to report an average grade in high school of "A."

2. U.S.C. males were about twice as likely as U.S.C. females (males, 24.0%; females, 11.3%) to report an average grade of "C" in high school.

3. All of the above trends were in the same direction as the national norms.

Table 4

BY COLLEGE

A COMPARISON OF HIGHEST DEGREE PLANNED ANYWHERE FOR USC FRESHMEN AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

HIGHEST DEGREE PLANNED ANYWHERE	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
None	0.8	0.0	0.0	2.2	3.3	0.6	1.8	2.3	1.2	1.8
Associate (or Equivalent)	0.0	0.0	0.9	3.3	53.3	6.9	0.7	2.3	5.5	2.0
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S.)	60.2	24.7	47.4	53.3	30.0	64.2	36.1	58.0	44.1	37.7
Master's (M.A., M.S.)	22.3	16.2	44.8	30.0	7.5	22.0	25.8	26.1	23.5	26.6
Ph.D., or Ed.D.	3.5	22.3	6.0	7.8	0.8	4.0	14.7	10.2	10.5	11.0
M.D., D.C., D.D.S., or D.V.M.	0.4	35.2	0.0	0.0	1.7	2.3	1.3	0.0	6.4	12.6
LL.B. or J.D. (law)	12.5	0.8	0.9	2.2	1.7	0.0	18.3	1.1	7.9	6.5
B.D. or M.Div. (Divinity)	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3
Other	0.4	0.4	0.0	1.1	1.7	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.7	1.5

Comments:

1. Compared to the national norms, a smaller percentage of entering freshmen at U.S.C. planned to pursue post baccalaureate degrees. A primary factor in this difference was the smaller percentage of U.S.C. entering freshmen planning to pursue medical degrees, i.e. "M.D., D.C., D.D.S., or D.V.M." (U.S.C., 6.4%; national norm, 12.6%).

2. As expected, a greater percentage of students in the College of General Studies considered the "associate (or equivalent) degree" to be the highest degree they would obtain when compared to other colleges.

Comments (Table 4) (Continued)

3. When the different colleges were compared by highest level of degree planned, various differences were noted. For example, the Allied Health Sciences had the highest percentage (64.2%) of students seeking the "bachelor's (B.A., B.S.) degree" as the highest degree they would obtain. The College of Education had the highest percentage (44.8%) of students seeking the masters degree, the college with the highest percentage (22.3%) of students seeking the doctoral degree was the College of Science and Mathematics. With respect to the "L.L.B. or J.D. (law)" degree, students in the Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences (18.3%) and Business Administration (12.5%) were more likely to consider attaining these degrees.

Table 4-A

BY SEX

A COMPARISON OF HIGHEST DEGREE PLANNED ANYWHERE FOR USC FRESHMEN/AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

	USC FRESHMEN			NATIONAL NORMS		
HIGHEST DEGREE PLANNED ANYWHERE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
None	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.8	1.7	1.8
Associate (or equivalent)	1.5	9.9	5.5	1.2	2.9	2.0
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S.)	40.3	48.2	44.1	32.6	43.5	37.7
Master's (M.A., M.S.)	20.9	26.4	23.5	25.2	28.2	26.6
PhD., or Ed.D.	13.4	7.2	10.5	12.8	9.0	11.0
M.D., D.C., D.D.S., or D.V.M.	10.0	2.6	6.4	15.8	9.0	12.6
L.L.B. or J.D. (law)	11.9	3.5	7.9	8.6	4.1	6.5
B.D. or M.Div. (Divinity)	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3
Other	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.5	1.5

Comments:

It is interesting to note that females aspired to degrees at or below the master's level more frequently than males; however, this trend reversed itself with respect to doctoral and other professional degrees. These results are typical for entering freshmen both at U.S.C. and nationally.

Table 5

A COMPARISON OF REASONS NOTED AS VERY IMPORTANT IN SELECTING THIS COLLEGE FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

REASONS NOTED AS VERY IMPORTANT IN SELECTING THIS COLLEGE	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
Relatives wanted me to come here	11.4	3.9	5.7	6.3	10.2	4.4	8.4	9.9	7.6	5.6
Wanted to live away from home	26.4	19.6	25.2	19.8	18.1	21.8	25.4	13.0	22.6	19.1
Teacher advised me	1.1	0.8	3.3	1.1	3.3	1.7	5.3	1.1	2.7	4.3
Has a good academic reputation	34.9	36.5	48.0	58.3	48.0	58.2	40.8	33.7	42.9	60.6
Offered financial assistance	10.9	10.7	8.3	11.8	10.8	7.3	11.5	10.9	10.4	15.7
Advice of someone who attended	19.5	12.5	22.6	12.9	18.4	21.4	17.8	14.3	17.6	17.2
Offers special educ programs	19.5	26.4	32.8	45.7	32.8	42.1	20.6	16.3	26.9	29.4
Has low tuition	22.3	22.5	26.2	17.2	17.2	23.9	25.4	23.1	23.1	22.9
Advice of guidance counselor	3.1	5.2	6.6	4.3	8.3	5.0	3.8	5.5	4.7	6.5
Wanted to live at home	7.3	7.1	10.0	3.2	8.3	4.5	6.2	5.6	6.6	6.9
Could not get a job	3.1	1.6	1.7	1.1	0.0	1.1	1.1	2.2	1.6	1.4

Comments:

1. Students varied with respect to the reasons noted as very important in selecting U.S.C. "Has a good academic reputation" was the most frequently cited (42.9%) and "could not get a job" was the least frequently cited reason (1.6%).

Comments (Table 5) Continued

2. In comparison with the national norms, U.S.C. students were less likely to cite the following reasons as important in making their college choice: "has a good academic repurtation," "offered financial assistance" and "offered special educational programs." U.S.C. students were more likely than their national counterparts to cite as important the following: "influence of relatives" and "wanted to live away from home."

3. Students in the College of Journalism and the Allied Health Sciences were more likely to cite "has a good academic reputation" as a very important reason in selecting U.S.C. (58.3%; 58.2%) than were students in other U.S.C. colleges.

Table 5-A

A COMPARISON OF REASONS NOTED AS VERY IMPORTANT IN SELECTING THIS COLLEGE FOR USC FRESHMEN BY SEX AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

REASONS NOTED AS VERY IMPORTANT IN SELECTING THIS COLLEGE	USC FRESHMEN			NATIONAL NORMS		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Relatives wanted me to come here	5.9	9.5	7.6	4.7	6.7	5.6
Wanted to live away from home	19.2	26.3	22.6	14.9	24.0	19.1
Teacher advised me	2.5	2.9	2.7	4.1	4.5	4.3
Has a good academic reputation	35.8	50.5	42.9	57.5	64.1	60.6
Offered financial assistance	10.8	9.9	10.4	15.1	16.3	15.7
Advice of someone who attended	15.5	19.9	17.6	16.1	18.4	17.2
Offers special educ programs	23.4	30.8	26.9	24.0	35.6	29.4
Has low tuition	23.0	23.2	23.1	21.9	23.9	22.9
Advice of guidance counselor	4.6	4.9	4.7	6.7	6.3	6.5
Wanted to live at home	6.1	7.1	6.6	6.9	7.0	6.9
Could not get a job	2.2	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.4

Comments:

In general, a number of sex differences are apparent in the reasons students gave for selecting U.S.C. Females cited most of the reasons offered more frequently than males especially "has a good academic reputation" (50.5%; 35.8%), "offered special educational programs" (30.8%; 23.4%), and "wanted to live away from home" (26.3%; 19.2%). The same trends existed in the national norms.

Table 6

A COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED PARENTAL INCOME[3] FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

ESTIMATED PARENTAL INCOME	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
less than $6,000	4.8	3.9	6.6	6.3	9.8	8.6	3.3	2.2	5.1	6.0
$6,000 - $9,999	6.3	12.5	9.2	7.3	13.8	12.9	9.4	13.2	10.3	10.3
$10,000 - $14,999	16.4	25.8	24.4	30.5	29.3	27.5	24.5	30.8	24.7	26.6
$15,000 - $24,999	37.9	32.0	38.6	35.8	29.2	29.2	32.3	40.7	33.8	32.0
$25,000 - $34,999	18.6	16.0	11.8	11.6	8.2	11.4	17.5	7.7	14.7	12.9
$35,000 - $49,999	7.4	5.0	3.4	3.2	7.3	6.4	7.4	3.3	6.2	6.4
$50,000 or more	8.6	4.7	5.9	5.3	2.4	3.8	5.7	2.2	5.3	5.8

[3]The ACE data were divided into fourteen income brackets. For ease of comparison, the brackets were conbined into the above seven categories.

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Comments:

1. The percentages of U.S.C. entering freshmen by estimated parental income are very similar to the national norms.

2. More than half of the U.S.C. entering freshmen (58.5%) estimated a parental income of between $10,000 and $24,999.

3. When compared to other colleges and to the national norms, a higher percentage of entering freshmen from the College of General Studies estimated parental income of less than $6,000 (College of General Studies, 9.8%; national norm, 6.0%).

4. At U.S.C. and nationally, over one-fourth of the entering freshmen had estimated parental incomes exceeding $25,000. (U.S.C., 26.2%; national norms, 25.1%). However, one-third of the freshmen in the College of Business Administration had parental incomes in excess of $25,000.

Table 7

A COMPARISON OF PROBABLE MAJOR FIELDS[4] OF STUDY FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

PROBABLE MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
Business	93.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	18.8	12.6
Education	0.0	0.0	95.9	0.0	6.4	18.7	0.9	0.0	10.2	7.5
Engineering	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.2	98.9	5.9	9.6
Health Professional	0.0	2.0	0.8	0.0	24.8	78.1	0.0	0.0	11.3	8.0
Arts and Letters	0.0	0.0	0.8	2.0	3.2	0.0	32.8	0.0	9.9	10.6
Science and Math	1.6	72.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.0	12.2	19.8
Social and Behavioral Sc.	1.9	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	46.4	0.0	14.0	11.9
Other Fields (Technical)	0.4	17.6	0.0	1.0	3.2	1.6	0.6	1.1	3.6	5.5
Other Fields (Non-Technical)	1.1	7.1	0.0	95.9	12.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	9.3	9.8
Undecided	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.0	4.0	1.1	13.6	0.0	4.9	4.6

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[4]As was indicated for the previous table, several responses have been incorporated into other categories. Science and Math includes mathematics and statistics, physical sciences, biological sciences, and agriculture. Social and Behavioral Science includes the social sciences and history, political science. Arts and Letters includes English, fine arts, and humanities (other).

Comments:

The percentages of U.S.C. freshmen entering the different major fields of study were generally the same as the national norms, except for "business" which was described as a probable major by 18.8% of U.S.C. freshmen compared to the national norm of 12.6%. Other major fields in which U.S.C. students reported comparatively higher interests were "education," "health professions," "Social and Behavioral Sciences," and "undecided."

Table 7-A

A COMPARISON OF PROBABLE MAJOR FIELDS[5] OF STUDY FOR U.S.C. FRESHMEN BY SEX AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

	USC FRESHMEN			NATIONAL NORMS		
PROBABLE MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Business	22.9	14.4	18.8	16.5	8.4	12.6
Education	4.1	16.6	10.2	2.5	13.0	7.5
Engineering	10.9	0.6	5.9	16.6	1.8	9.6
Health Profession	4.3	18.4	11.3	2.2	14.5	8.0
Arts and Letters	7.7	12.3	9.9	8.8	12.5	10.6
Science and Math	18.1	5.9	12.2	25.3	13.8	19.8
Social and Behavioral Sc.	13.0	15.0	14.0	10.3	13.6	11.9
Other Fields (Technical)	5.3	1.8	3.6	5.7	5.3	5.5
Other Fields (Non-Technical)	9.4	9.1	9.3	8.2	11.6	9.8
Undecided	4.2	5.6	4.9	3.8	5.5	4.6

[5]As was indicated for the previous table, several responses have been incorporated into other categories. Science and Math includes mathematics and statistics, physical sciences, biological sciences, and agriculture. Social and Behavioral Science includes the social sciences and history, political science. Arts and Letters includes English, fine arts, and humanities (other).

Comments:

Differences between males and females at U.S.C. with respect to probable major field of study are similar to those existing in the national norms. Males and females vary widely with respect to probable major field of study. Compared to males, females report a greater probability of entering fields such as "education," "health professions," "Social and Behavioral Sciences," and Arts and Letters. Males report, more often than females, that they will probably go into fields of "Science and Math,: and Business Administration," and "Engineering."

Table 8

A COMPARISON OF CURRENT RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE [6] FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

CURRENT RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
Protestant	77.2	70.5	80.5	82.5	86.9	77.3	70.1	74.2	74.6	45.2
Catholic	10.7	13.0	11.4	12.4	5.5	14.8	9.7	8.6	10.8	31.5
Jewish	2.9	2.3	1.6	2.1	0.0	1.6	2.5	3.2	2.2	5.8
Other	2.9	3.5	1.6	1.0	3.9	3.1	4.6	2.2	3.6	4.8
None	6.3	10.7	4.9	2.1	3.1	3.2	13.1	11.8	8.7	12.4

[6] In order to simplify interpretation the various religions have been grouped into four major categories. Protestant consists of Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Quaker, Seven Day Adventist and other Protestant. Other consists of Eastern Orthodox, Latter Day Saints (Mormon), Muslim, Unitarian - Universalist and religion (other).

Comments:

1. Freshmen at U.S.C. are more likely to be Protestant and less likely to be Catholic, Jewish, other or none when compared to freshmen nationally.

2. Nearly three-fourths of all U.S.C. freshmen (74.6%) described their current religious preference as Protestant.[7]

Comparison of U.S.C. with the national norms on principal protestant denominations yields the following data: Baptist (USC, 30.5%; national norm, 9.5%), Episcopal (USC, 6.2%; national norm 3.4%), Lutheran (USC, 7.8%; national norm 8.9%), Methodist (USC, 16.2%; national norm, 10.8%), and Presbyterian (USC, 10.5%; national norm 6.2%).

Table 9

A COMPARISON OF POLITICAL ORIENTATION FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

POLITICAL ORIENTATION	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
Far Left	3.0	1.5	0.8	0.0	1.6	1.6	2.6	5.4	2.2	2.0
Liberal	29.0	28.7	31.1	45.3	28.0	23.8	38.1	27.2	31.9	31.9
Middle-of-the-Road	51.7	50.6	56.6	41.1	59.2	56.1	47.2	54.3	51.2	51.6
Conservative	15.2	18.8	11.5	13.7	9.6	18.0	11.3	13.0	14.0	13.8
Far Right	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.7	0.6

Comments:

1. Political orientations of U.S.C. entering freshmen were almost identical to those of students in the national norms.

2. More than half (51.2%) of the U.S.C. freshmen described their political orientation as "middle-of-the-road." While approximately one-third of the students (34.1%) described themselves as "far left or "liberal."

3. The greatest percentage of U.S.C. entering freshmen describing themselves as "liberal" or "far left" are found in the Colleges of Journalism (45.3%) and Humanities and Social Sciences (40.7%). The greatest percentage of U.S.C. entering freshmen describing themselves as "conservative" or "far right" are found in the Colleges of Science and Math (19.2%) and the Allied Health Sciences (18.5%).

Table 9-A

A COMPARISON OF POLITICAL ORIENTATION FOR USC FRESHMEN BY SEX AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

	USC Freshmen			National Norms		
POLITICAL ORIENTATION	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Far Left	3.0	1.3	2.2	2.5	1.4	2.0
Liberal	32.9	30.9	31.9	33.1	30.6	31.9
Middle-of-the-Road	47.7	55.0	51.2	48.2	55.5	51.6
Conservative	15.4	12.6	14.0	15.4	12.1	13.8
Far Right	1.1	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.6

Comments:

Differences by sex were typically in the same directions when compared to the national norms. Females were more likely to describe their political orientation as "middle-of-the-road," (females, 55.0%, males 47.7%) and conversely, males were somewhat more likely to describe their political orientation as either "liberal" or "conservative."

Table 10

A COMPARISON OF FUTURE ESTIMATIONS MADE BY USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

STUDENTS ESTIMATE CHANCES ARE VERY GOOD THAT THEY WILL	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
Change Major Field	14.9	11.7	10.5	6.2	11.6	4.8	14.1	4.3	13.0	15.3
Change Career Choice	14.5	12.0	8.1	9.3	10.1	4.8	12.9	4.3	12.6	14.7
Live in a Coeducational Dorm	11.6	10.5	7.3	11.5	6.2	3.2	33.2	17.0	10.0	33.0
Be Elected to an Honor Society	3.0	8.2	6.5	3.2	1.6	5.9	7.7	5.4	4.7	7.3
Make at Least a "B" Average	26.3	41.7	32.5	31.9	24.4	26.2	44.2	26.1	32.0	43.8
Work at Outside Job	22.4	21.3	27.6	27.8	23.3	20.2	24.2	20.2	23.4	26.1
Seek Vocational Counseling	6.7	4.7	2.4	9.5	7.0	5.4	8.7	6.4	6.9	10.6
Enroll in Honors Courses	5.6	16.5	4.8	8.3	1.6	3.7	12.5	12.8	8.9	12.0
Get a Bachelor's Degree	72.0	74.7	77.4	75.3	22.8	78.7	73.8	81.9	72.6	75.0
Be Satisfied With College	54.5	52.0	62.0	66.3	68.0	60.0	51.4	46.2	56.8	56.2
Find a Job in Preferred Field	58.2	61.6	57.4	67.4	73.4	78.7	56.2	79.8	60.7	55.8
Marry Within a Year After College	16.7	18.5	26.8	12.6	28.5	27.7	15.2	19.6	20.7	16.8

Table 10 (Continued)

Comments:

1. When compared to the national norms, a lower percentage of U.S.C. freshmen estimated that changes were good that they would "live in a coeducational dorm" (U.S.C., 10.0%; national norm, 33.0%). This is not surprising, however, in light of the fact that U.S.C.'s only co-ed dorm is not open to freshmen.

2. A much smaller percentage of U.S.C. freshmen estimated that chances were very good that they would "make at least a 'B' average" when compared to the national norms. (U.S.C., 32.0%; national norm, 43.8%). This seems clearly related to the fact that a lower percentage of U.S.C. students also reported making an average grade of "A" in high school. (See Table 3).

3. Close to three-fourths of the U.S.C. freshmen (72.6%) reported that chances were very good that they would "get a bachelor's degree"; over half (56.8%) reported that they would "be satisfied with college"; and 69.7% estimated that they would probably "find a job in a preferred field."

4. U.S.C. students varied somewhat with respect to estimations that they would "change major fields." Students from the College of Business Administration were most likely to make the statement (14.9%), and those in the College of Engineering were least likely (4.3%). This same trend was noted in estimations about change of career choice.

5. U.S.C. freshmen varied by college with respect to estimation that chances were very good that they would "enroll in honors courses," with 16.5% of the freshmen in the College of Science and Math making the statement, 1.6% of the freshmen in the College of General Studies making the statement, and the other colleges falling between these two extremes.

6. It is interesting to note that while 68% of the freshmen in the College of General Studies agreed that they would "be satisfied with college," only 46.2% of the freshmen in the College of Engineering felt that way. The national norm was 56.2%. The average for U.S.C. was 56.8%.

7. Students varied widely by college with respect to estimations that they would "find a job in a preferred field." Over three-fourths of the freshmen in the College of Engineering agreed with the statement (79.8%), whereas over half (56.2%) of the freshmen within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences concurred with the statement. The other colleges fell within these two extremes (U.S.C. average, 60.7%; national norm, 55.8%).

Table 11

A COMPARISON OF PLACES OF RESIDENCE DURING FALL TERM FOR USC FRESHMEN BY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL NORMS

RESIDENCE PLANNED DURING FALL TERM	BUS ADM	SCI & MATH	EDUC	JOUR	GEN STU	ALLIED HEA SCI	SOC & BEH SCI	ENGIN	TOT USC STU	NATL NORMS
With Parents or Relatives	21.4	28.2	22.0	23.5	35.2	29.1	23.9	30.9	25.9	20.3
Other Private Home or Apartment	3.7	3.1	2.4	3.1	6.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.9	2.9
College Dormitory	71.2	66.0	74.8	72.4	58.6	67.7	72.5	66.0	69.4	74.0
Fraternity or Sorority House	1.8	2.3	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.2
Other Campus Housing	1.1	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.6	1.3
Other	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3

Comments:

1. When compared to the national norms, more U.S.C. entering freshmen planned to reside "with parents or relatives." (U.S.C., 25.9%; national norm, 20.3%).

2. Fewer U.S.C. entering freshmen planned to live in a dormitory (U.S.C., 69.4%; national norm, 74.0%) when compared to national norms. U.S.C.'s relatively low percentage of entering freshmen living in a dormitory occurred despite an institutional policy requiring entering freshmen to live on campus.[8]

3. Students in the College of General Studies are less likely to live in residence halls and more likely to live with parents and relatives or in a private home or apartment.

[8] U.S.C.'s residence policy requires all freshmen to live in the residence halls except those who are over 21, veterans, married or living with relatives. Due to a shortage of space, however, freshmen, who would otherwise be required to reside on campus, are unable to obtain campus housing.

SUMMARY

Profile - The average entering Freshman at U.S.C. for Fall, 1974 was:

1. **18 years of age**
2. **a white/caucasian**
3. **a "B" student in high school**
4. **hoping to achieve at least a bachelors or masters degree**
5. **likely to have selected U.S.C. for its good academic reputation**
6. **probably from a family with an annual income of between $10,000 and $25,000.**
7. **a business, health professional, or education major**
8. **a Protestant**
9. **"middle-of-the-road" politically**
10. **residing in a college dormitory**

Profile - Compared with entering freshmen nationally, U.S.C. entering freshmen:

1. **were less likely to have maintained an "A" average in high school and generally achieved lower in high school.**
2. **placed less importance in good academic reputation as a reason for selecting U.S.C.**
3. **were more likely to be Black**
4. **generally less confident academically, less likely to seek an advanced degree**
5. **more likely to be Protestant and less likely to be Catholic or Jewish**
6. **more likely to live at home or with relatives and less likely to live in a college dormitory.**